figures on working children are not maintained by the Ministry. However, as per Census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26crore.

(d) to (f) Minimum wages for agricultural labour are fixed both by the Central and State Governments and appropriate governments in their respective jurisdiction under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. These rates are not applicable to child labour.

Child labour in hazardous works

2833. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children in the age group of 5 to 11 years in India and in the world, according to latest ILO report;

(b) their number in India, indicating how many of them are labourers and how many are engaged in hazardous works; and

(c) the plan and programme of Government to practically abolish child labour and to completely free them from hazardous works?

HE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) As per the latest ILO Global Report (2006), the number of children in the age group of 5-14 yers in the World are 1206.5 million as in 2004.

(b) The report does not mention specific estimates on India. However, according to the 2001 Census, the number of working children u;'Jer 14 years of age in the country is 1.26 crore.

(c) Government is committed to the elimination of all forms of child labour. It is, however, following a gradual and sequential approach beginning with those engaged in most hazardous occupations and processes first. In this direction, Government will be implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in 250 districts of 20 states in the country during the Xth Plan period. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into the Special Schools where these children are provided basic education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system.